the dates of recommendation are given below :

Name of district	No. of works recommended	Date
Palamau	77	Prior to 28.1.96
	62	28.1.96
	2	30.1.96
	2	15.3.96
Garhwa	5	14.1.95
	1	27.1.95
	2	9.8.95
	1	10.9.95
	2	28.12.95
	24	10.1.96
	1	14.1.96
	1	24.1.96
	5	27.1.96
	1	23.2.96

The District Collector of Palamau district has reported that of the 77 schemes recommended prior to 28.1.96, 76 schemes were sanctioned and executed. One scheme could not be sanctioned as it was found to be not permissible under the guidelines. The 66 schemes recommended after 28.1.96 were also processed but further action could not be taken up due to imposition of Model Code of Conduct.

(d) The District Collector of Garhwa district reported that out the the 43 schemes submitted by the MP, 13 schemes have been implemented and the rest 29 schemes were processed but could not be implemented due to coming into force of the Model Code of Conduct for elections. The recommendations for one of the schemes was stopped by the MP himself.

(e) In view of the circumstances indicated above, there does not prima facie appear to be any cause for taking action.

[Translation]

Enhancement in Power Tariff

2366. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several State Electricity Boards have hiked the electricity charges in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such states and the percentage of hike announced by each board separately;

(c) whether this hike has been made in order to gain 3% dividend on the amount of capital investment made in the power sector;

(d) if so, whether these boards may not succeed to gain 3% dividend in future because of the prevailing corruption and their inefficiency; and

(e) if not, whether the plant load factor is 30% less as compared to 40% of power is lost because of transmission and distribution losses and thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement indicating the percentage increase in the average cost of electricity in respect of various states in the country where electricity charges have been revised during 1995-96, is indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir. The objective of the tariff revision, inter-alia, is to achieve 3% Rate of Return (ROR) after meeting all operating expenses, payment of interest on loan and depreciation provision. However, the extent of revision of tariff may not be sufficient in some of the Boards to achieve 3% ROR.

(d) No, Sir. The main reasons for Boards not achieving the prescribed 3% ROR, are due to inadequate revision of tariff, non-payment of Agriculture subsidy by State Governments of low tariff in agriculture, high T and D losses and low PLF due to ageing and inadequate maintenance of the plant.

(e) The names of State Electricity Boards which have PLF 30% less as compared to 76% PLF of NTPC during the year 1995-96 is given in Statement - II. The transmission and Distribution losses in the country for utilities were of the order of 20.85% during the year 1995-96. The States having Transmission and Distribution losses above 40% are J and K (42.9%) and Arunachal Pradesh (41%).

STATEMENT-I

Statement of Percentage increase in rates due to revision of tariff during 1995-96.

S.No.	Name of the States	Date of Revision of Tariff	Domestic	Commercial	Agriculture	Small Industries	Large Industries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.08.1995	21.98	25.18	(-) 75.25	18.91	19.64
2.	Himachal	1.11.1995	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	18.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1.07.1995	Nil	19.66	33.32	27.59	13.10
4.	Orissa	5.11.1995	Nil	13.51	Nil	16.94	18.14
5.	Punjab	20.8.1995	Nil	0.94	Nil	1.23	1.06
6.	Rajasthan	1.10.1995	Nil	4.49	Nil	9.89	9.91
7.	Goa	1.04.1995	Nil	26.25	Nil	Nil	4.44
8.	Nagaland	1.12.1995	81.82	100.00	36.36	108.33	Nil
9.	Sikkim	1.04.1995	6.67	63.16	28.46	33.29	22.97

STATEMENT-II

Name of SEBs/utilities which have PLF 30% less as compared to 76% PLF of NTPC.

Boards	PLF (%) during 1995-96
HSEB	42.8
UPSEB	47.4
BSEB	17.4
OSEB	21.2
WBSEB	34.5
D.P.L.	26.5
ASEB	28.6
All SEBs Average	58.1

[English]

Drinking Water

2367. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provision of 40 litres of water per capita per day within a distance of 1.6 km in every habitation in the country particularly in Assam has been fulfilled; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LPG Connections

2368. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had introduced a novel scheme for allotment of cooking gas connections immediately to consumers on a deposit of Rs. 4000/-;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such cooking gas connections released upto March 31, 1996 under the scheme in each State/Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government has introduced a scheme to release LPG connection on demand (Tatkal LPG connection). LPG connections are released to the following categories of applicants on demand (Tatkal) :

1. Physically handicapped persons.
2. Doctors under medical profession.
3. NRIs.
4. Staff of foreign nationality serving in embassies, consulates, trade commissioners.
5. Foreign nationals residing in India under valid visa.
6. Persons returning to India on transfer of residence basis.
7. Retired defence personnels within one year of their retirement.
8. Professionals namely, lawyers, doctors, Chartered Accountants, Chartered Engineers, Cost Accountants and Architects.
9. Any person who has booked his LPG connections more than one year ago.

A Tatkal connection shall be released against one-time payment of non-refundable lump-sum amount of Rs. 4000/-. The consumers under this scheme also shall pay normal/applicable security deposit for loaned equipment as is applicable for other doestic consumers. All Tatkal connections are issue in the name of individuals only. Tatkal connections are released with DBC facility.

(c) A statement is enclosed.